

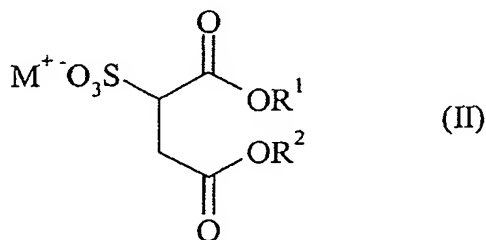
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (New): A fatliquoring agent for the production and/or treatment of leather and hides, comprising

- A) a mixture of modified natural oils containing
 - a1) at least one oxidized sulfited natural oil and
 - a2) at least one oxidized sulfated natural oil,
- B) an emulsifier mixture containing
 - b1) at least one C₆- to C₁₄-alkanol alkoxyated with from 4 to 12 alkylene oxide units,
 - b2) at least one C₁₂- to C₂₄-alkanol alkoxyated with from 15 to 40 alkylene oxide units and
 - b3) at least one C₁₂- to C₂₄-alkanol alkoxyated with from 50 to 100 alkylene oxide units, and
- C) optionally a linear, cyclic or branched polymer of a dialkylsilanediol SiR₂(OH)₂, where R is methyl, ethyl, n-propyl or phenyl, and/or
- D) optionally a compound of the formula (II)



wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and, independently of one another, are selected from the group consisting of H, M, saturated linear aliphatic C₁- to C₁₈-alkyl and

saturated branched aliphatic C₃- to C₁₈-alkyl, wherein at least one of the two radicals R¹ and R² ≠ H, M with M = alkali metal or 0.5 alkaline earth metal, and

M⁺ is selected from the group consisting of H⁺, NH₄⁺, alkali metal⁺ and 0.5 alkaline earth metal⁺.

Claim 12 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein the oxidized sulfited natural oil is obtained by oxidizing natural oil so that the difference Δd between the specific gravities of the unoxidized and oxidized natural oil is from 0.01 to 0.1 g/ml and then reacting the natural oil oxidized in this manner with from 2 to 8 % by weight, based on its weight, of a sulfite - calculated as sodium bisulfite (Na₂S₂O₅),

and

wherein the oxidized, sulfated natural oil is obtained by oxidizing natural oil so that the difference Δd between the specific gravities of the unoxidized and oxidized natural oil is from 0.01 to 0.1 g/ml and then reacting the natural oil oxidized in this manner with from 3 to 9 % by weight, based on its weight, of H₂SO₄ - calculated as 98% strength by weight aqueous H₂SO₄ solution.

Claim 13 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein the emulsifier mixture B comprises from 20 to 60 % by weight of component b1 or of a mixture of the components b1, from 20 to 70 % by weight of a component b2 or of a mixture of the components b2 and from 10 to 50 % by weight of a component b3 or of a mixture of the components b3 - based in each case on the total weight of the emulsifier mixture.

Claim 14 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein component b1 is at least one C₈- to C₁₂-alkanol alkoxylated with from 4 to 12 alkylene oxide units and/or

component b2 is at least one C₁₄- to C₂₀-alkanol alkoxyated with from 15 to 40 alkylene oxide units and/or component b3 is at least one C₁₄- to C₂₀-alkanol alkoxyated with from 50 to 100 alkylene oxide units.

Claim 15 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein the polymer of the formula (I) has a viscosity of from 30 to 1,000 mPa·s, measured in the pure substance at 20°C.

Claim 16 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in the compound of the formula (II), R¹ and R², independently of one another, are selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl, tert-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, n-hexyl, 2-ethylhexyl, n-octyl, n-dodecyl, n-tridecyl, n-tetradecyl and n-hexadecyl and/or M⁺ is H⁺ or Na⁺.

Claim 17 (New): The fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 11, wherein said fatliquoring agent comprises from 45 to 98, % by weight of a component A or of a mixture of components A, from 2 to 15 by weight of a component B or of a mixture of components B, and from 0 to 20 by weight of a component C or of a mixture of components C, and from 0 to 20 % by weight of a component D or of a mixture of components D, based in each case on the total weight of the fatliquoring agent.

Claim 18 (New): Aqueous composition for the production and/or treatment of leather and hides, comprising 40 to 80 % by weight of said fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 19 (New): A process for fatliquoring in the production and/or treatment of leather and hides, wherein the leathers or hides are treated with aqueous liquors comprising said fatliquoring agent as claimed in claim 1.